

Transit Planning Board Meeting

Thursday, October 25, 2007

1:00 PM

245 Peachtree Center Ave.

Suite 800 – GRTA Board Room

Atlanta, GA 30303

Present Board Members:

Eldrin Bell, *Chair of Clayton County Board of Commissioners/TPB Chair*

Doug Tollett, *President of American Resurgens Management Corp. /TPB Vice Chair*

Buzz Ahrens, *Chair of Cherokee County Board of Commissioners*

Charles Bannister, *Chair of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners*

Eddie Freeman, *Chair of the Spalding County Board of Commissioners*

Jack Smith, *Chair of the Fayette County Board of Commissioners*

Pam Sessions, *CEO of Hedgewood Properties, Inc.*

Richard McCrillis, *MARTA General Manager*

Roy Middlebrooks, *Chair of Rockdale County Board of Commissioners*

Tom Worthan, *Chair of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners*

Walter Deriso, *Chair GRTA Board of Directors*

Walter L. Kimbrough, *Acting Chair of MARTA*

Absent Board Members:

Jason Harper, *Chair of Henry County Board of Commissioners*

John Eaves, *Chair Fulton County Board of Commissioners*

Laura O'Connor Hodgson, *CEO of Insomnia Consulting*

Mike Evans, *Chair of the State Transportation Board*

Sam Olens, *Chair of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners*

Shirley Franklin, *Mayor of the City of Atlanta*

Vernon Jones, *CEO of DeKalb County Board of Commissioners*

Other TPB and Partner Agency Staff Present:

Cheryl King, *TPB Staff Director*

Cain Williamson, *ARC Staff resource to the TPB*

Carol Smith, *MARTA, Director of Research and Analysis*

John Crocker, *TPB Planner*

Lisa Lee, *TPB Executive Assistant*

Luz Borrero, *Deputy Chief Operating Officer, City of Atlanta*

Paul Grether, *MARTA Staff Resource to the TPB*

Tom Weyandt, *ARC Director Comprehensive Planning/TPB Senior Staff*

William Mecke, *GRTA Staff Resource to the TPB*

Quorum Present? Yes

**Meeting was officially called to order by Chair Eldrin Bell at 12:00PM. After confirming that a quorum of the Board was present the meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

► **Public Comment**

- None

► **Approval of Board Agenda for October 25, 2007**

- Agenda was approved.

► **Approval of Board Minutes from August 30, 2007**

- August minutes were approved.

► **Operations and Oversight Committee** – *Pam Sessions, Chair*

Service Coordination – Paul Grether

- Several projects went into affect on September 15th including service coordination projects between Gwinnett County and MARTA as well as between Clayton County and MARTA were endorsed. MARTA busses now serve the Tradeport facility in Clayton County at the request of the State Department of Revenue. Based on the coordination effort between Gwinnett and MARTA there is now local bus coverage from Lindbergh up to Duluth on Buford Highway.
- The Peachtree Street Bridge has re-opened. GDOT and the various transit operators are now working together on the major 14th Street bridge closure project. This effort is focused on developing mitigation plans for bus routing and also encouraging patrons to use public transit during the construction of that project.
- Negotiations between Gwinnett County and the State Road & Tollway Authority (SRTA) continue for the use of the SRTA property on 17th street as downtown mid day bus layover location.
- The arts center station is under reconstruction by MARTA. MARTA is working with the Woodruff Arts Center to coordinate what will be done at the station.

Joint Regional Service – Carol Smith

- The joint regional service between MARTA and CCT (the MARTA Route 12/CCT Route 10 Open Door Demonstration project) was initially launched in November 2006. To help evaluate the impact of this service, the MARTA Research and Analysis Division conducted surveys on board both routes. The objectives were to identify the impact of joint service, to gather customer feedback and to measure the customer satisfaction level on both routes; routes 12 and 10.
- The average weekday ridership (on both routes) is up over 10% which is well above the national standard for new service or service extensions.

- The overall satisfaction level for these 2 routes is above 80% and is due to:
 - ✓ Quick Public transportation
 - ✓ Convenience
 - ✓ On-time Service
 - ✓ Frequent Service
- A full report that is more detailed will be released. After the MARTA Board has approved the report we will provide a copy for the TPB Board.

► **Today's Goals** – *Cheryl King & Helen Tapp*

- At the TPB retreat we looked at two concepts for a regional transit vision. Since then we have taken the feedback we received from the retreat, the one on one briefings with Board members and key stakeholders to create/revise Concept 3.
- We will present the elements for Concept 3 and then you will break into 2 groups to further interact/discuss Concept 3.
- The purpose of today's meeting is to obtain an understanding of a preliminary vision as it is presented as a region wide system and focuses on functionality that serves work trips.

Concept 3 Proposed System Plan – John Crocker and Jim Baker

- The primary goal of Concept 3 is to connect people throughout the region to the major employment/activity centers. This will be accomplished by providing an interconnected and expanded regional transit network; that will capture a large portion of the employment trips to activity centers and to include the supporting network of local bus service and the development of land use regulations and patterns that support transit uses.
- This will be a multi-modal network. that:
 - ✓ Is activity center focused
 - ✓ Is an expansion of the rail network and existing transit infrastructure
 - ✓ Has different types of bus service
 - ✓ Is not constrained by political boundaries (is regionally seamless for the user)
- We are focusing on the employment/activity centers because large portions of the regions home to work trips are occurring in those activity centers.
- This plan will reflect a significant expansion of the rail network because rail provides reliable service delivery.
- The total cost to maintain the current transit system as well as build the Concept 3 system is (2007-2030) \$54 billion. A large percentage is the cost to operate and maintain service. This cost does include the MARTA debt service.

► **Schedule & Process for Agreement on Draft System Concept** – *Helen Tapp*

- Two groups will break out to discuss in further detail whether or not Concept 3 is close to a plan that would be endorsed for presentation for public comment.

► **Board Introduced Topics**

- The TPB will hold elections at the December 13th Board meeting. Members interested in running for Chair or Vice Chair were invited to submit their names to the staff or Chairman.
- Chairman Eldrin Bell does intend to run for Chairman of the TPB.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:30PM

**Minutes submitted by Executive Assistant, Lisa Lee

ADOPTED this 25th day of October, 2007:

Chairman

Date

Executive Assistant